DISEC

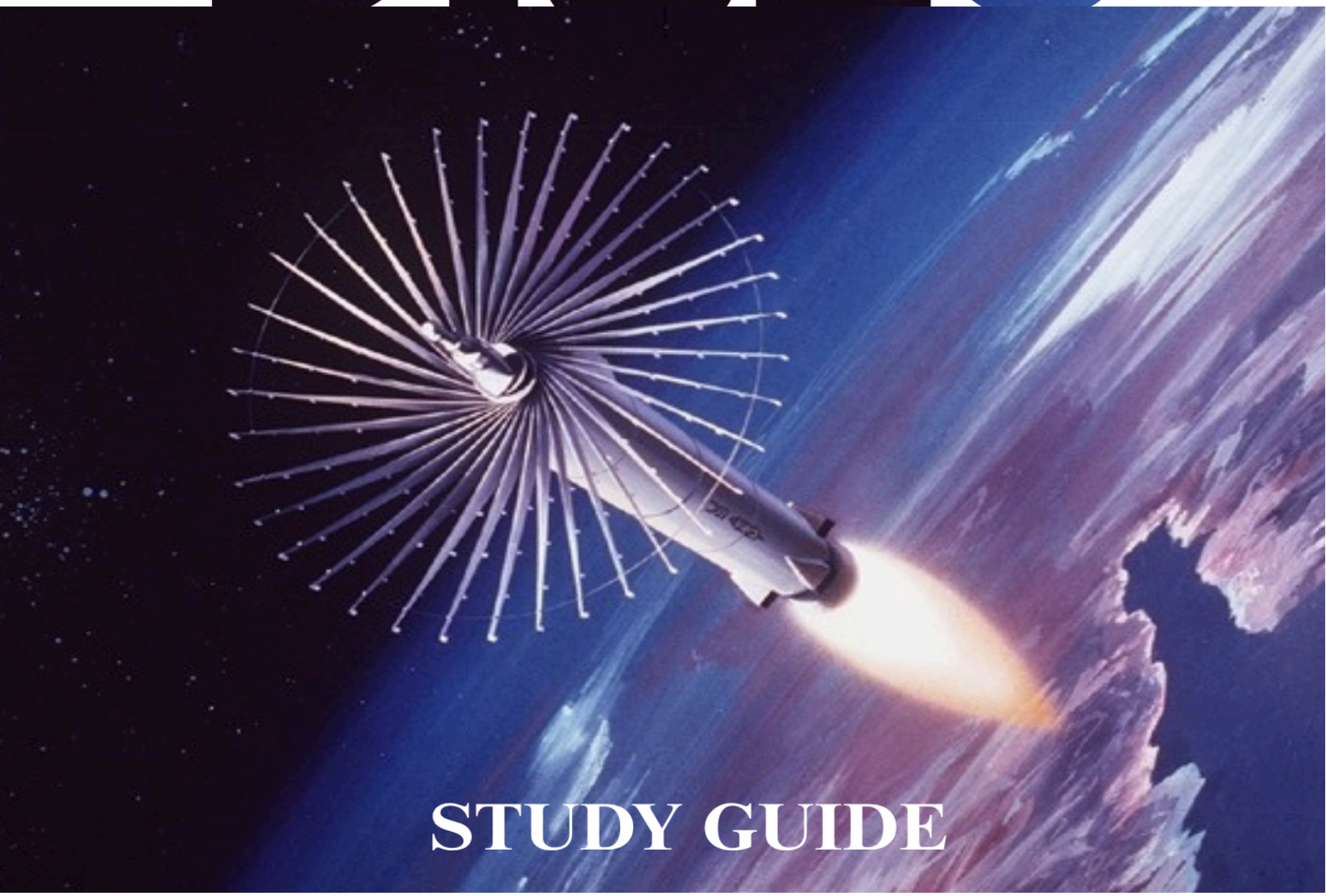
Disarmament and International Security Committee

SHISHUKUNJ MUN
INDORE
2025

AGENDA:

Addressing the proliferation of technologically advanced space-based weapons of mass destruction and preventing a new age arms race beyond earth.

DISEC



STUDY GUIDE

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LETTER FROM THE BUREAU

Dear Delegates,
Namaste.

We- Shlok Kasat, Advait Bandi, Jenil Chudgar and Nibbana Wadhwani - The Bureau of the Disarmament and International Security Committee, welcome you all to the Shishukunj Model United Nations, 2025. In the tenth iteration of this conference, DISEC will be an exhilarating committee because for the first time in the history of Shishukunj MUN we are pleased to present a double delegation format for our committee. The agenda for this year for DISEC is going to be **"Addressing the proliferation of technologically advanced space-based weapons of mass destruction and preventing a new age arms race beyond earth."** wherein we are going to be discussing the threat of space based weapons of mass destruction upon humanity. Alongside this, we will also be discussing prevalent treaties like the outer space treaty, the moon agreement etc. and discuss potential loopholes and problems in them.

The guide is carefully crafted to introduce you to the agenda and serve as a basic round of research. Apart from this, it is highly recommended that you research beyond this guide and enhance your comprehension of these topics. We, the executive board, recommend that portfolios align themselves in blocs with appropriate common stance in accordance and also keep their foreign relations and policies in mind. We are looking forward to well made points, substantive solutions, thought provoking questions and well round debates.

Albert Einstein once said "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." The modern world has seen several technological advancements that have enhanced the way of living, making life easier for mankind. But there are always demerits to any part of life. Technological advancements when it comes to weapons have become a threat to the very same humans that came up with them. The exploration of outer space has inevitably led to attempts of weaponizing it by space based weapons of mass destruction. In the past, there have been some attempts to address this problem like the creation of the outer space treaty, but there are loopholes that exist that are being exploited.

We expect all of you to be well versed with the agenda and prepare well for the conference. We expect all work to be original and not to be plagiarized. The use of Artificial Intelligence is strictly prohibited. Any violations shall result in strict consequences. Lastly, in case of any queries or doubts, feel free to contact any of us, we will be pleased to help. We are very eager to

meet you all and hope to make Shishukunj MUN 2025 a truly memorable and fun experience for everyone. See you on the conference days!

Shlok Kasat (Chairperson)
Advait Bandi & Jenil Chudgar (Co-Vice Chairpersons)
Nibbana Wadhwani (Rapporteur)

INTRODUCTION TO DISEC

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the first committee of the United Nations General Assembly and deals with disarmament and maintenance of overall international peace. This committee began in 1945 with the foundation of the United Nations when the UN Charter was signed.

As the name suggests, the committee tries to address issues related to disarmament, which basically means the reduction of military forces and weapons to secure global peace. Therefore, the main motive of DISEC is to establish peace and ensure international cooperation when it comes to disarmament. All countries that are members of the UN are also included in DISEC.

Rather than being a committee that passes treaties, DISEC is more of a suggestive body that proposes them. These proposals are then reviewed by the Security Council, which has the powers to implement them. DISEC makes recommendations to other relevant bodies as well. Being a suggestive body not at all means that DISEC is powerless as it is considered to be one of the most effective committees in the General Assembly. The powers of DISEC are clearly stated in Chapter IV, Article 11, Sub-article 1 of the UN Charter.

INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967, whilst historic in promoting peaceful exploration of outer space, in the present day, stands outdated. This legal grey area leaves room for interpretation and has enabled countries to utilize this loophole to pursue advanced space militarization without technically violating the treaty. The treaty encompasses several flaws which shall be discussed in detail in the study guide and the forthcoming committee sessions.

Weapons have taken the place of peace in outer space, filling the void beyond earth with destruction. Countries have developed such arms that can obliterate targets with extreme precision. The expansion of such weapons has led to a fear of a new arms race beyond earth, i.e. in space. Space is the next frontier where experts believe that a further conflict could arise. This has also been shown through rising geopolitical tension between the West and Russia. Unlike terrestrial conflict, where an offense is relatively confined, an act of war in space could mean complete decimation of Earth. These weapons remain in the hands of only a select few nations, resembling space colonization but without physical land occupation. This creates a dangerous disparity between space-capable and non-space-capable countries, reinforcing global inequality. As a result, developing nations face a constant fear of attack.

An added factor arises, in the form of the private sector and dual use technologies. Companies have started developing satellites equipped with tools which are hard to detect and are being used for both civilian purposes,such as navigation and telecommunication whilst also aiding the host country in surveillance, adding a question mark of sovereignty and privacy. Regional and Global Organizations have also started conducting talks on space militarization, while some remain peaceful, others advocate for weaponization of space which must be stopped. Institutions like the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Conference on Disarmament (CD) are also engaged in peaceful negotiations between states, but the world hasn't agreed on a common ground yet. Therefore, the committee's primary aim is to reach consensus, while upholding the national policies and security objectives of individual nations.

Given the complexity and geopolitics surrounding space-based weapons, this agenda is well suited for double delegation as it not only requires creative and practical solutions but also great negotiation skills with and among all those who possess such technologies, to hopefully disarm these weapons and lead to global peace. Hence, the agenda for our committee, Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is "***Addressing the proliferation of technologically advanced space-based weapons of mass destruction and preventing a new age arms race beyond earth.***" Under this agenda the committee shall be discussing topics of utmost importance such as, advancement of weapons, various legal frameworks, geopolitical tensions as well as the role of private military companies and private space companies.

KEY TERMS

1. **Proliferation** - rapid increase in the number or amount of something
2. **New Arms Race** - A competitive search for disruptive technologies with potentially profound military and global security implications.
3. **Weaponization** - The process of deploying weapons in space
4. **Militarization** - Using space for military purposes without necessarily deploying weapons
5. **Dual-Use Technology** - Innovations or objects that can be used for both civilian and military applications (here, satellites)
6. **Space Debris** - Also known as space junk or orbital debris, refers to non-functional human-made objects orbiting Earth. This includes defunct satellites, spent rocket stages, fragments from collisions or explosions, and other waste materials
7. **Regional/Global Alliances or Organizations** - Collaborations between countries within a specific geographic region or on a global level to strengthen diplomatic ties
8. **PMCs (Private Military Companies)** - or private organizations that provide military services, including security, logistics, and combat operations, often in conflict zones
9. **PSCs (Private Space Companies)** - commercial entities that develop and offer space-related products and services
10. **WOMDs (Weapons of Mass Destruction)** –Weapons designed to cause widespread death, damage, and destruction on a massive scale
11. **ASATs** - A weapon system designed to destroy or disable satellites in orbit.
12. **Space** - In International law, it is defined as the area beyond a state's territorial airspace, which is not subject to national appropriation. The Kármán line (100 km altitude) is commonly used as a practical demarcation, it's not legally binding.
13. **Space to Earth Weapons** - Weapons stationed in space that are designed to attack or disrupt targets on Earth.
14. **Earth to Space Weapons** - Weaponry that is designed to incapacitate or destroy satellites in orbit. These are typically surface-to-space or air-to-space missiles, often modified from existing ballistic or anti-ballistic missiles.

15. **Space to Space Weapons** - Also known as orbital weaponry, are devices designed to be deployed in outer space to attack targets in space itself.

PAST RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 2222 (XXI) [19 December 1966]

Agenda: International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

This resolution was the first major resolution passed related to exploration of outer space. It formally approved the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (otherwise known as the Outer Space Treaty). The Outer space treaty was followed only after this resolution was passed. This resolution was therefore the first attempt at establishing legal framework and international cooperation when it comes to exploration of outer space and mostly mentions points related to the outer space treaty and what the state parties to the treaty have to keep in mind.

B. No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space (A/C.1/79/L.59) [2024]

Agenda: Prevention of an arms race in outer space: no first placement of weapons in outer space.

This resolution was more focused on the weaponization of outer space which was, and still is, a growing concern. It mentions many substantive points like exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes, possibility of an arms race, legal regimes when it comes to exploration of outer space, establishing transparency and confidence building measures, etc. This resolution showed more concern on a possible arms race and tried to take steps to prevent placement of weapons in outer space rather than talking about legalities, rules and regulation. It also mentions the importance of international cooperation in such a situation and expressed the importance of certain states to step up and give out political statements that they would not be the first ones to place weapons in outer space.

C. Reducing Space Threats through Norms, Rules and Principles of Responsible Behaviours (A/C.1/79/L.75) [2024]

Agenda: Prevention of an arms race in outer space: reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour.

The main purpose of this resolution was to establish certain rules and regulations regarding outer space activities that had to be followed and kept in mind. This resolution mentioned various important points like concerns of an arms race, stating the importance of planning state activities, dangers of space debris, technological advancements concerned with outer space, etc.

WEAPONIZATION OF OUTER SPACE

Weaponization of Outer Space, refers to the development of military technologies intended for use in space, including both space based and terrestrial based systems designed to target assets in orbit.

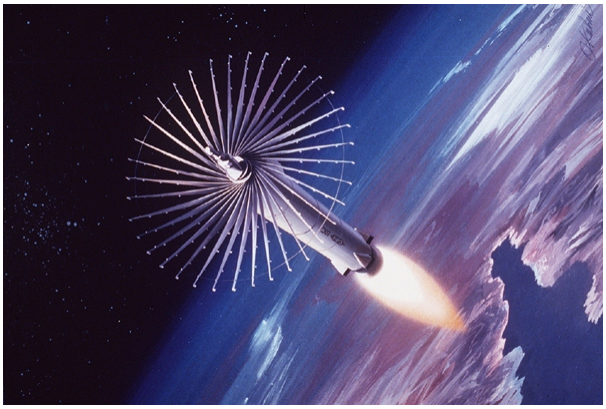
Weapons of Mass Destruction in Space

Now let us focus on a very specific type of weapons, **weapons of mass destruction**. Hearing these words, the first thing that comes to our minds is nukes, well, humanity has long advanced from using nukes on Earth itself, the ever increasing exploration of outer space has ultimately led to efforts to weaponize it with these weapons of mass destruction. Although there are frameworks like the Outer Space Treaty that still limit the placement of weapons of mass destruction in outer space they too have their own limitations which will be discussed later in the guide. What we need to understand over here is that the placement of not only such weapons of mass destruction but also weapons like ASAT's, kinetic kill vehicles, jammers, lasers, etc., in outer space can be catastrophic for everyone.

Motive of developing space based weapons

Before diving into the specifics of actual weapons, we must first understand with what intentions do these countries develop such weapons, though different countries might have different motives, the main idea used by countries to develop and deploy weapons with such destructive capabilities is to provide strategic military advantages by targeting enemy satellite systems and communication networks. This gives the aggressor dominance over others at a global front and with space emerging as a new age battlefield this would give countries an upper hand during future space based warfare.

Anti Satellite Tests



Imagine this: your country is at war, but instead of tanks and soldiers, your enemy launches a missile, not at your country, but at the satellites orbiting thousands of kilometers above the Earth. Within minutes, your communications are jammed, your GPS goes down and your surveillance feeds go black. Well, delegates that

is the power of an Anti Satellite Weapon, more commonly referred to as an ASAT.

Anti Satellite Weapons are systems or missiles designed to destroy, damage and disable satellites, they are one of the most powerful weapons in a country's arsenal.

Now the question arises, why would anyone in their right mind go through the trouble of targeting to destroy, disable or even damage a satellite thousands of miles away? Well, that is because of many reasons which include- satellites are the eyes and ears of modern military, they are crucial for communication, surveillance, navigation and early warning systems. Not only that, but satellites also constitute the backbone of global infrastructure, the internet that we use, finance, weather forecasting and even disaster management systems are highly dependent on satellites for functioning. Therefore, by knocking out an adversary's satellite, a nation can cripple its enemy's battlefield awareness and coordination without firing a single shot on the ground.

Categorization of ASATs

There are 2 main categories of ASATs-

1. **Kinetic ASAT's**
2. **Non Kinetic ASAT's**

The main difference between these 2 categories is how they destroy, damage or even disable satellites where one directly smashes into the satellite, like smashing something with a hammer and on the other hand one hacks into the satellites or their ground control systems, like hacking into a software.

1. Kinetic ASAT's

Kinetic ASAT's, also known as the smash and crash weapons are weapons that physically collide or explode near the satellite to destroy it. These weapons are directly launched from earth in the form of rockets and missiles and travel into space to intercept the satellite at high speeds. Kinetic ASAT's rely purely on collision based destruction and no explosives are required. Another type of much more stealthy Kinetic ASATs could be the Co-orbital type wherein they are sent into orbit like any other satellite and slowly move close to the target before striking it and detonating. These types of ASATs are harder to detect because they lay dormant until activated.

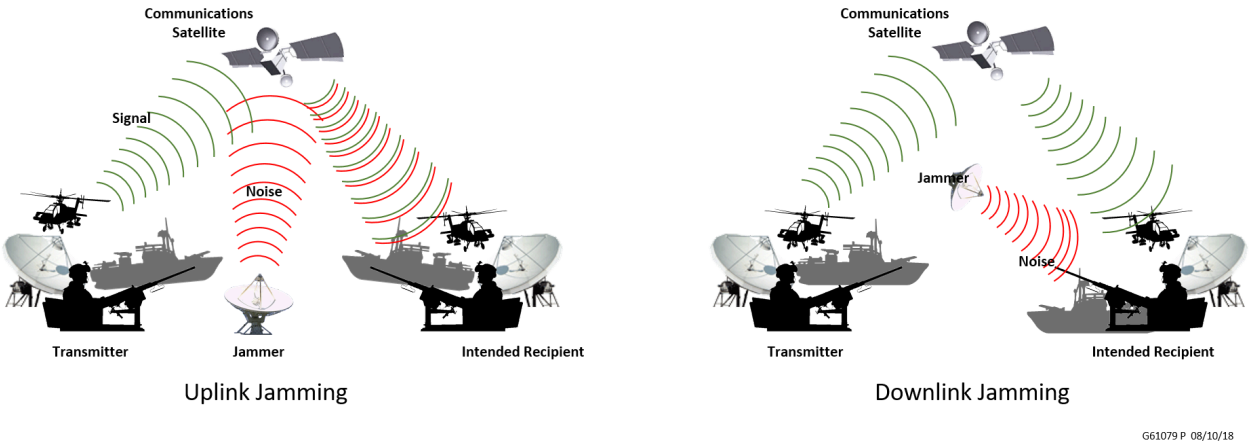
The use of such destructive weapons comes with dangers of its own, for example the use of Kinetic ASAT's is associated with dangers like formation of large amounts of space debris which ultimately leads to space pollution and orbital congestion. This also raises global tensions and undermines peaceful space cooperation.

2. Non Kinetic ASATs

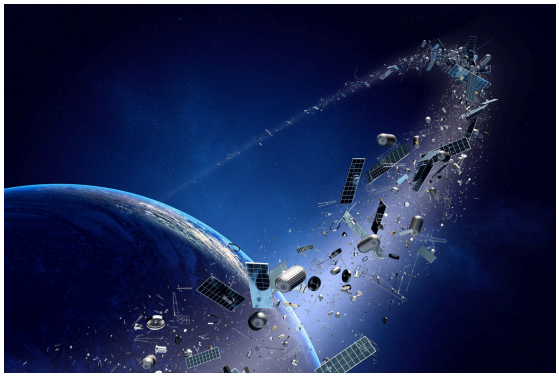
Moving forward to the other category of ASATs, Non Kinetic ASATs are weapons that don't physically destroy the satellite but instead disable and manipulate them using invisible forces.

Non Kinetic ASATs use different methods to disable or even destroy satellites, which include-

1. Cyber ASATs-
    a. As the name suggests, these hack into satellites or their ground control systems, which when gained access to can alter trajectory, shut down systems or even steal data.
2. Jamming and spoofing-
    a. Jamming- Blocking of satellite communication systems
    b. Spoofing- Send fake signals to deceive GPS or even communication



3. Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Weapons-
    a. The electromagnetic Impulses from nuclear or non-nuclear blasts can fry satellite circuits leaving them useless
    b. This method is rarely used to destroy satellites, but can be considered as a by product of use of large scale weapons of mass destruction on Earth or even in upper orbit



Space Debris

One of the most dangerous and lasting by-products of anti-satellite weapons, especially kinetic ASATs, is the generation of space debris. When a satellite is destroyed in orbit, it fragments into thousands of tiny pieces, many of which are too small to be tracked but large enough to destroy other spacecraft. These fragments remain in our orbit for decades and create a phenomenon known as orbital congestion. The debris increases the risk of collisions with other satellites. A single collision could trigger a chain reaction known as the Kessler Syndrome where each new impact creates more and more debris, potentially worsening the problem. This not only threatens space assets but also puts global satellite infrastructure, GPS, communications at risk, ultimately turning once safe orbits into hazardous minefields.

Satellites with Dual Objectives

In the age of rapid space militarization, not all satellites are what they seem. Some are launched under the name of “scientific research”, “communications,” or “weather monitoring,” but hidden beneath these peaceful purposes may lie military capabilities. These are called satellites with dual use or dual objective capabilities.

A satellite with dual objectives is one that serves both civilian and military functions, either by design or by upgrades post launch. This duality makes it difficult to distinguish between peaceful space missions and military operations.

Then why are satellites with dual objectives problematic?

The explanation is that such satellites blur the lines between peace and war where it becomes almost impossible for countries to distinguish if satellites are hostile or peaceful. This also leads to lack of transparency wherein many space faring nations do not completely disclose a satellite’s true capabilities.

Therefore, the main problem with satellites of dual objectives that must be addressed in committee is: Should the international community demand full transparency about satellite capabilities? Or would that infringe on national sovereignty and security?

Technological advancements in Space Based Weapons

As the frontier of space becomes more militarized, nations have started investing heavily in cutting edge technologies to gain advantage, not only through force, but with precision, automation, and innovation. Two major game changers in this race are the use of Artificial

Intelligence and the development of advanced weapon systems such as lasers, jammers, and kinetic kill vehicles.

Use of Artificial intelligence in Space Warfare

Artificial intelligence has revolutionized space warfare and weaponry to an extent which was previously never seen. Once a harmless tool for data analysis, AI is now being used in attack and defence systems, making satellites and space weapons faster, smarter and deadlier.

AI is used for a variety of purposes in Space Warfare-

1. It can be used to track fast moving objects like satellites or missiles, without human intervention.
2. Decision making after analysing scenarios and deciding the most favourable one.
3. AI algorithms can detect and counter cyberattacks on satellites and ground systems.
4. With so many satellites in orbit, AI optimizes their coordination, collision avoidance and resource allocation.

Other Advanced Space Weaponry

Advanced space weaponry, including space to Earth lasers, Earth to space Kinetic Kill Vehicles (KKV's), jammers and EMP's pose a large threat to global peace and infrastructure. These weapons can very precisely target both satellite and terrestrial assets, disrupting communications, navigation and even defence systems. Jammers are used to stop the communication between a satellite and its ground system control, potentially rendering it useless. While Kinetic Kill Vehicles are typically used in Earth to space and space to space scenarios, space to Earth use is technically possible and dangerously destabilizing. Their deployment generates space debris, risks accidental conflict and reduces trust. Frameworks like the outer space treaty only prevents placement of weapons of mass destruction in space and has no clauses in regardance with such advanced weapons. This is an urgent need to regulate, disarm and prohibit the further development of such weapons to preserve outer space as well as make Earth a peaceful place for all.

OTHER PRE-EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

The Militarization of space has transitioned from simply science fiction to a pressing international concern. As nations continue to expand their influence and weapons in space, the risk of an arms race beyond Earth escalates. Although treaties and several legal frameworks govern the deployment and even development and testing of such weapons, countries have managed to outpace the guidelines specified and have found loopholes. A necessity of improving, amending and evolution is required to address current and future challenges.

The further section of the guide, shows each framework in depth and specifics its details and some loopholes. Delegates are expected to go through at least the first treaty in depth as it forms a crucial part of discussion in the committee.

1. The Outer Space Treaty (1967)

The Outer Space Treaty, officially titled the "Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies," is a foundational international treaty that regulates the exploration and use of outer space. Acting as a foundation to all future and current frameworks, it regulates the exploration and use of outer space. It is structured as a single document containing a preamble and 17 articles. It does not have formal "parts" or "sections," but its articles can be grouped thematically based on their subject matter.

Talking about its history, it was first opened in 1967 for signature and entered into force the same year. The treaty is a cornerstone of international space law, setting the provisions of peaceful use of space and prohibiting the placement of weapons of mass destruction in orbits or on celestial bodies.

The Outer Space Treaty encompasses several key articles including, *Article I*, that states that *"The exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries… province of mankind"*. The primary development of ASAT weapons brings into question **how** free countries that do not possess these weapons are to explore space. Regardless of the purpose of a satellite when placed in orbit around the earth, the existence of these satellite-killing weapons is cause for concern to the owners of the satellites. Some states could argue that not all space exploration will be accomplished for peaceful purposes, and therefore this ASAT capability needs to be available to counter non-peaceful deployments of satellites. However, this in itself shows the weakness in the treaty.

Articles II-III state that the Moon and other celestial objects are not subject to any nation's authority and activities in space must comply with international law.

Article IV-V states that *"States Parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction."* And *"... shall regard astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space and shall render to them all possible assistance in the event of an accident"* respectively.

Article VI of the treaty states that states must bear the international responsibility for national activities in outer space. It also adds that *"The activities of non-governmental entities in outer space ... shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party to the Treaty."* However, despite this provision, it remains largely unenforceable, making it difficult to hold Private Companies accountable.

Together, *Articles VII-VIII* establish that states are liable for damages caused by them. Further it states that the states retain jurisdiction and control over these damages, extending this to even celestial bodies.

Article XV and onwards focus on the termination of the treaty, including procedures for amendments, withdrawals, and the treaty's overall implementation, ensuring flexibility while maintaining international cooperation in space activities.

While the Outer Space Treaty laid a critical foundation for peaceful space exploration, its limitations in enforcement, accountability, and clarity—especially regarding modern threats like ASAT weapons and space debris—highlight the urgent need for reform. All delegates must think upon substantive solutions for some of the flaws highlighted above. Kindly do not be restricted to only these. You are required to go in depth with frameworks and provide suitable and practical solutions for the same.

2. The Moon Agreement (1979)

The Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, commonly known as the Moon Agreement, entered into force on 11 July 1984. The state parties to the agreement noted that, in exploring space, the moon and other celestial objects play an important role. To prevent the moon from becoming an area of international conflict, the nation has acted upon this treaty.

The Agreement recalls previous space treaties, including the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention, and the Registration Convention, and aims to define and develop their provisions in relation to the celestial bodies including but not limited to the Moon. However, the agreement does not apply to extraterrestrial materials that reach the surface of the earth by natural means.

The key provisions of the agreements include, *Article III*, that states that *"The Moon shall be used by all States Parties exclusively for peaceful purposes,"* implying that the moon can't be used for any military purposes, nor can be weaponized by a state or even an organization. Further the article states that any *"hostile act or threat of hostile act on the moon is prohibited."* The ownership of the moon has also been prohibited, by any state, organization, or individual. Adding to the freedom of exploration and scientific investigation, by *Article VI,* it has been stated that there shall be freedom of scientific investigation on the moon by all States without any discrimination.

Coming to the shortcomings of this treaty, as of now, only a few countries have ratified it and most with actual capabilities of going to the Moon have not. Secondly, *Article XI* declares the Moon and its resources the "common heritage of mankind" and prohibits national appropriation, has presently failed to show the practical implementation.

3. SALT I – Strategic Arms Limitation Talks I (1972)

The Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT) began in the late 1960s after the United States learned of a huge Soviet Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) buildup aimed at achieving parity with the US.

SALT I was a key development during the Cold War period. It was initiated in order to limit the growing arms race, especially focusing on nuclear arms' development. Its main motive was to ease tensions and stabilize relations between the two space superpowers, USSR and USA.

For the first time in the cold war, the USA and the USSR managed to agree upon limiting the number of nuclear missiles in their arsenals. The SALT I agreement consisted of the ABM Treaty (The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty)ABMs. The interim SALT agreement placed limits on the total number of strategic nuclear delivery vehicles.

While SALT I limited certain systems, it did not prevent each side from enlarging their forces by deploying Multiple Independently Targeted Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs) onto their ICBMs and SLBMs.

4. TCBMs

Looking at the next legal framework, we have transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs), which are a set of tools designed to display, predict, and discipline states' behavior with respect to maintaining the security of space. They simply are a means to strengthen dialogue and interactions while also encouraging openness, greater transparency and information sharing. In the current world, where countries are in constant conflict with numerous secrets, it is important to adopt some measures to ease the tensions and increase sharing. These are one of the least controversial measures that a nation can agree to to begin with. Additionally, they are

essential measures that can address the rapidly increasing challenges especially in outer space such as space orbital debris, collision avoidance, while actively promoting space situational awareness (SSA), planetary defence.

TCBMs are a great intermediate measure between a functional need and a binding framework. There have been debates regarding the need for binding and non-binding instruments. However, the mere recognition among states is an important step in itself to think practically. Basically, these let countries open a forum for transparent communication, building up confidence in each other that could potentially lead to better provisions and peace. In the past decade, efforts like the UN's 2013 report and 2019 sustainability guidelines have developed space TCBMs.

Though they remain voluntary and non-binding, TCBMs can constitute emerging international norms that could themselves be the precursors for future legally binding instruments.

5. PAROS Treaty

The PAROS or Proposed Prevention of an Arms Race in Space Treaty aims to build upon the OST (Outer Space Treaty) and would prevent any nation from placing objects carrying any sort of arsenal or weapon into orbit.

In 1959, the UN COPUS was established and this committee identified areas for international cooperation in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. During the peak Space Race of 1960s and 1970s, a number of agreements other than the ones mentioned above were adopted to prevent the weaponization of space. Although these treaties placed a ban on the placement of weapons of mass destruction (WOMDs) in space, they did not prevent states from placing OTHER kinds of weapons in space. As a result, many states placed an argument in retaliation that these existing treaties are insufficient to safeguard the stake of humanity for more conflict.

Under the draft treaty submitted to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) by Russia in 2008, State parties shall commit to refrain from placing objects with any weapons into orbit or even installing weapons on celestial bodies and threatening to use force against objects in space. All in all, a PAROS treaty would complement and reevaluate the existing OST treaty and would deny any nation from gaining a military advantage at least beyond Earth

6. The Rescue Agreement (1968)

The Rescue Agreement, officially known as "Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space." The agreement was negotiated and adopted by the UN from 1962 to 1968. It entered into force on December 3, 1968.

Its primary objective was to promote international cooperation, safety of astronauts, and responsibility for space activities. The Rescue Agreement consists of ten Articles. Its main purpose is to elaborate upon *Articles V and VIII* of the Outer Space Treaty.

Articles 1 through 4 are dedicated to obligations concerning the assistance of personnel of a spacecraft, which is considered synonymous with "astronauts" or "cosmonauts" as used in the Outer Space Treaty. *Article 6* contains a definition of *"launching authority"*, which includes both the State responsible for launching and, under certain conditions, international intergovernmental organizations.

While implementation in domestic law might be limited as its rights and obligations primarily concern states, it has been invoked in practice, particularly regarding the return of space objects. For example, when Saudi Arabia (a non-party, acting in the spirit of the Outer Space Treaty) notified the US about a recovered GPS satellite motor cover (2001).

All treaties discussed above define some aspect of space exploration or weapons. They are nonetheless essential for today's date but include several unresolved issues, especially regarding implementation and remaining outdated. Lastly, such loopholes can be fixed easily by coming up with creative and practical solutions or amendments to such provisions.

ROLE OF PMCs AND PSCs IN SPACE MILITARIZATION

PMCs are basically corporate entities providing offensive services designed to have a military impact in a given situation that are generally contracted by the government. They have always been a threat when it comes to weaponization. PMCs play a major role in militarization, which is basically to provide entities with military resources. Governments often take aid from PMCs for getting access to military resources. The increasing influence of PMCs in weaponization is an issue of crucial importance.

When it comes to our agenda, PMCs do not have such a great role to play with regards to outer space, but Private Space Companies do. Over time, the influence of Private Space Companies has been increasing when it comes to weaponization of outer space. Although their main purpose is focused on the exploration of outer space, the potential new age arms race has also piqued their interest.

There are several private entities that have directly or indirectly contributed to technological developments when it comes to outer space weapons. Since they have the resources, these entities have been working on several outer space weapons which include both kinetic and non-kinetic. Such private companies have also developed certain multipurpose satellites that have dual objectives and are capable of causing destruction with their integrated weapons. Although their main purpose is exploration of outer space, weaponization of outer space has also started to become one of their agendas because a potential new age arms race has increased the demands of such weapons and at the end of the day these companies are private and focused on profit.

Some companies like spacex also hold contracts with their country's military for developing such satellites for national security. The increasing influence of these private companies is a concern and a critical issue at hand.

Since there is not much legality that binds these companies when it comes to these matters, it is important to discuss their increasing influence in outer space weaponization and limit their possible involvement in the future.

GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS

Imagine a world where outer space, once the symbol and beacon of shared global peace and cooperation becomes the battlefield for the next war. Sounds like science fiction? It's not.

Today, geopolitical tensions have reached beyond borders and into orbit, as nations try to control satellites, weaponize space, and outpace rivals. The peaceful cosmos is turning into a political and strategic chessboard.

A New Age Arms Race

What the nuclear arms race was to the 20th century, the space arms race is to the 21st. Just as the cold war spurred the development of nuclear weapons, today's superpowers are racing to develop and deploy technologies that can give them supremacy above Earth.

Key Weapons and Technologies in this emerging arms race include ASATs, direct energy weapons, cyber and AI powered orbital tools, Inter continental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), or any of the advanced weapons like lasers, Kinetic Kill vehicles, jammers etc that we have discussed earlier. Countries have already started exploiting loopholes in frameworks and started developing such technologies that pose a great threat on others as well. The rapid development and deployment of such space weapons has led to increased threat in orbit. Satellites and strategic terrestrial locations have become the main target of these weapons.

This Growing arsenal creates an environment of mutual suspicion and significant erosion of trust between spacefaring nations. Without any clear communication or binding agreements, every new weapons test or satellite maneuver risks being perceived as aggressive or preparation for attack. Therefore nations are racing against rivals on the basis of who can make more strategic and destructive weapons which helps them gain dominance over their opposers and also prepare to safeguard themselves for a worst case scenario situation. These tensions could easily slip out of control and could lead to even war-like situations, hypothetically these weapons could also lead to a war on a similar or even a greater extent to the previous two World Wars.

In essence, this new arms race is not just about gaining advantage in space, it's about managing the very real dangers of distrust, misinterpretation, and the prospect of war triggered by conflict miles above Earth.

Emerging Regional Alliances

As conflict and tensions grow, so do alliances, but not the peaceful kind. Many countries have already formed alliances with others to protect their interests in orbit. For instance QUAD (United States, India, Japan, Australia) is collaborating on satellite surveillance, AUKUS is exploring joint development in advanced technology, likely including space defence. Russia and China are forging closer military ties in space to counter the dominance of NATO

These groupings sound strategic and they are. But they also risk turning space into an extension of Earth's battlefield, with rival blocs fighting for orbital supremacy. If communication breaks down or a satellite is misinterpreted as a threat, the fallout might not be in space alone; it could spark conflict back on Earth as well.

Stances Around the World

As already discussed in the previous sections of the study guide, different nations and organizations follow different procedures to deal with militarization of space.

Regional blocs and alliances, in particular, are instrumental in influencing diplomatic norms and collective space policy. Below is an overview of selected alliances and stances.

1. EU

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The union has an estimated population of over 449 million as of 2024.

The EU has consistently advocated for preventing the weaponization of outer space and countering the proliferation of advanced space-based weapons, particularly weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). On a more detailed note, the EU categorically opposes the deployment of nuclear weapons or any WOMDs in outer space, calling it a "severe breach of international law." It has also shown support for the OST 1967, particularly its *Article IV.*

It has also reaffirmed applicability of international law to space activities, including the UN Charter and existing space treaties. This pertains to *Article III* of the Outer Space Treaty. Its stance has been on focusing on the practical methodology and to take immediate steps to reduce risks, such as avoiding harmful interference with satellites.

Lastly, it believes in protecting its own space infrastructure (e.g., Galileo, Copernicus) through its Space Strategy while maintaining transparency all throughout.

2. Arab Nations

The Arab states or Arab Nations, comprises a large group of countries, mainly located in West Asia and North Africa. Arab nations are broadly supportive of international efforts to prevent the weaponization of outer space and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WOMDs) in space. The UAE, for example, has explicitly applauded United Nations initiatives to limit the weaponization of outer space and underscored the necessity to strengthen international law to prevent an arms race in space. Arab states have repeatedly called on all regional actors, especially Israel, to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and submit nuclear facilities to international oversight. The Arab Group at the United Nations, representing Arab League member states, consistently stresses the significance of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and globally.

However, while national investments in space are accelerating and regional cooperation on peaceful uses is growing, the Arab League's direct impact on curbing space-based weapons proliferation remains limited to advocacy and dialogue, with few binding or practical measures in place.

3. African Countries

Nations occupying areas on the African subcontinent, comprise the African countries. Although they are not the furthest in space technology, they do strongly support the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and consistently oppose the placement of weapons.

African nations reaffirm the importance of existing treaties, especially the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, and call for the urgent negotiation of a legally binding, verifiable international instrument to prohibit the placement of weapons in outer space and the use of force against space objects.

The African Union, which is a regional alliance, of 55 states in Africa. It has adopted a continental African Space Policy and Strategy (2016), which highlights the importance for a well-coordinated, integrated, and peaceful African space program that is globally competitive and responsive to the continent's needs

Open to development, the AU's Agenda 2063 includes a flagship African Outer Space Program, recognizing space technology as essential for economic development, security, and sovereignty, and explicitly linking space policy to peace, integration, and prosperity.

In all aspects, all nations theoretically and on paper support the outer space treaty and its successors. However, in practice, geopolitics often takes precedence over joint responsibility. This is the reality and it can't really be changed as well. To tackle a problem as vast as this, it is crucial that countries look at the action and repercussions of their work. The launch of weapons in space although is a violation of a treaty, on Earth is also a violation of humanity's future.

CASE STUDIES

1. U.S. Warns of New Russian ASAT Program

To understand the current threat posed by ASATs, we shall now look at a fairly recent case of ASAT testing by the Russian Federation which as a result was warned by the United States.

In 2024, reports emerged regarding Russia's alleged development of a nuclear anti-satellite weapon, potentially in the form of a space-based nuclear warhead. In February of the same year, a US official from the US Home Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, announced there was a “national security threat” concerning a destabilizing foreign military capability. In addition, some experts believed that this was somehow linked to a 2022 non-nuclear satellite by Russia.

Russia’s response to the United States’ claims shifted within a couple of days. The Russian Defence Minister refuted allegations of any such project or weapon in space. Moreover, the Deputy Foreign Minister called it a "malicious fabrication" and a tactic by the White House to persuade additional military aid to Ukraine.

Adding to the same, President Vladimir Putin declared that Moscow has no intention of deploying nuclear weapons in space, claiming that the country has only developed space capabilities similar to those of the US. He stated regarding their position, that it was quite transparent and they have always been opposed to deployments in outer space.

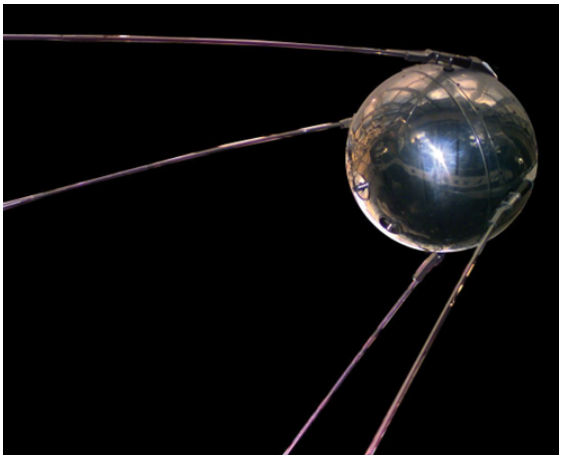
A nuclear-armed ASAT would violate the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. The United States has long supported the principle against the placement of weapons of mass destruction in outer space.

While this is a recent case, it is important to recognize that both superpowers have a history with ASAT testing and are not new to this. Between the years of 1958 and 1962, the two superpowers engaged in high altitude nuclear explosions (HANE). The most well known of these was Operation Starfish Prime, on July 9th 1962, it lit up Honolulu and appeared like massive fireworks for about 15 minutes straight.

Nuclear explosions in orbit are extremely threatening and escalatory. Even during the Cold War era, legal frameworks clearly prohibited nations from interfering with national technical systems. Weapons of such kind, lead to mass destruction and are indiscriminate in their actions, not sparring anyone. Such actions would cause harm to not only the nation's own infrastructure in space but can also impact the ISS.In conclusion, the scope of ASAT is not only focused around the nations who deploy them or even at whom they are typically aimed. Hence, this scenario depicts the pivotal need for international cooperation.

2. Sputnik Crisis

A spark in the history of mankind occurred on October 4, 1957 when the Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik I. The world's first artificial satellite was about the size of a beach ball (58 cm in diameter), weighed only 83.6 kg and took about 98 minutes to orbit the Earth on its elliptical path.



In the 1950s, both the United States and USSR were racing to develop advancing technology. Nazi Germany had nearly created the first ICBM nearing the end of WW2. Both the countries aimed to launch satellites by 1957-58, as urged by the International Council of Scientific Unions. Over the due course of time, the US tested several rockets, but ultimately failed. Following the launch of Sputnik 1, the world was drawn into the Sputnik Crisis, where geopolitical tensions and fear heightened in the US and sparked fears that the USSR had achieved technological superiority. Many in the US feared Soviet missiles could soon reach their land.

A year after the launch of Sputnik, U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), formally launching the "Space Race" between

the United States and the Soviet Union. Sputnik's success has deeply impacted the US, as Soviet leader Khrushchev claimed tech superiority and growing ICBM power. In response, the US boosted its own ICBM programs, and talks on banning nuclear tests stalled.

Fearing an orbital war, the United States developed its first ASAT weapon-Bold Orion, an air launched missile. Meanwhile, USSR pursued a "co-orbital" ASAT system, first tested in 1963, conducting around 20 trials with success varying individually, which also included launching of a "killer satellite."

In this way, the launch of Sputnik fueled both the space race and the arms race, in addition to increasing Cold War tensions, as each country worked to prepare new methods of attacking the other.

3. AUKUS and BRICS in Outer Space

This case study aims to address the growing role of regional alliances in the militarization of space, to see what their role has been in space and what role such regional or global alliances actually play.

AUKUS is a relatively new trilateral partnership announced in September of 2021 by Australia, UK and the USA. The first major initiative of AUKUS is a historic trilateral decision to support Australia acquiring conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs). Although this might be made to look defensive, it surely aids in raising the already high tensions in the Indo-Pacific Region. This initiative has been planned in a two phased manner.

AUKUS is increasingly playing a significant role in the militarization of space, especially through its focus on space surveillance. Under the 2nd pillar of its 2 pillars, the alliance is accelerating the development of shared space capabilities. This is an increasingly contested domain, where by pooling resources, the alliance aims to deter the adversarial actions. In conclusion, AUKUS is at the forefront of the militarization of space. It is providing advanced capabilities for space enhancing deterrence.

Coming to BRICS. It is an intergovernmental organization comprising its founding members Brazil, Russia, India, China which were later joined by other members making them 10 in total. The group serves as a platform for cooperation on economic, political, and developmental issues. In short, it aims to enhance economic collaboration and facilitate multipolarity in global governance, and fostering trade. Although, some analysts also suggest a

varying view regarding the stances of individual founding members. But that is up to debate on the global front.

On its stance regarding space weaponization, it is actively involved in discussions relating to PAROS. BRICS leaders have reaffirmed their testament to ensuring long term sustainability of outer space and preventing weaponization of space. In 2024, BRICS space agencies met in Moscow and discussed a joint statement urging the global community to refrain from deploying weapons in space.

The BRICS nations are focusing not on the weapons side of development, instead they are focusing on promoting civilian and security-focused projects. In short, BRICS advocates for stronger international treaties and cooperation to ensure outer space remains peaceful and secure.

In conclusion, while some organizations aid in militarization like AUKUS, others like BRICS act in completely opposite ways and make efforts to strengthen legal frameworks and develop new ones to ensure global safety.

CONCLUSION

Outer Space was once a symbol of hope, a boundless territory that united humanity on the grounds of peace and discovery. But today, that vision is under threat. The heavens are no longer untouched, they are being heavily militarized, politicized and are being transformed into the next playground for global struggle.

From Anti Satellite weapons and jammers to AI controlled systems, the lines between peace and provocation are blurring rapidly. The absence of strong enforcing treaties, growing mistrust among nations and rapid technological advancement have created such a geopolitical scenario that one misinterpretation in regardance to that could bring the world to a brink of war.

This agenda is something which has great urgency of being discussed in international forums because if we do not act now, it is going to lead to great death and destruction. As a delegate of DISEC it is imperative for you to find solutions that not only help prevent death and destruction but are also passed by mutual consensus of all because it is now your responsibility to prevent an irreversible descent into a new age of arms race, one that may not give us a second chance.

Also remember to maintain your country's actual stance and statements at all times during committee sessions, and also lobby in accordance with your foreign policy as well as with those whose stance aligns with yours The use of AI and plagiarism in your speeches or any other work during committee is strictly prohibited, any delegate found to be doing so will be met with severe consequences.

The time to act is not tomorrow, or not even after the first space conflict, the time is now. The future of Earth and all of humanity is now in your hands.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

Q1. How can the international community prevent the weaponization of outer space and emerging new age arms race while respecting national sovereignty and security interests?

Q2. What measures can be taken to strengthen existing treaties and frameworks to address the modern day issues?

Q3. How can international forums encourage transparency and trust building between nations to reduce the risk of accidental or intentional conflicts in space?

Q4. Should there be restrictions or monitoring of PMCs and Private space companies operating in military related space missions? If so, how and by whom?

Q5. To what domains can artificial intelligence be expanded to when it comes to outer space so that it does not harm international peace?

Q6. How can nations be held accountable for creating space debris or interfering with another nation's space assets? What actions should be taken against the same?

Q7. What role should emerging space nations and non-state actors play in the regulation of space activities?

Q8. What role can regional blocks play in ensuring peaceful space activity and how can DISEC or other international forums ensure their cooperation does not escalate into a new cold war in space?

Q9. What mechanisms can be used to settle disputes over violations of space disarmament clauses peacefully?

Q10. How to tackle specific issues related to different kinds of weapons individually?

Q11. What mechanisms can be created or empowered to verify the peaceful nature of space technologies and missions?

Q12. How to justify and classify defence and offence actions in outer space?

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